

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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OF MONSTERS AND "MAN-ANIMALS"

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN*

About 2,100 BC the Bel-Priest BEROSSOS scribbled a fascinating text on two clay tablets. Twenty years ago, Alfred Jeremias and Hugo Gressmann translated the cuneiform characters into German. Here is an extract of what they came to know:

"In Babylon, a large crowd of people belonging to different tribes gathered to live without any order, just like the animals. In the first year of the ancient king Aloros, a horrible monster called 'OANNES' emerged from the sea bordering Babylonia. A rational creature, it had the entire body of a fish, yet, under the fish-head, another, a human head had grown out, and human feet came out of its tail fin. Also, the creature had a human voice. Its picture is preserved to the present time. Without ever having meals, this living being mixed with the people during the day and taught them knowledge of writing, of sciences and of various other skills. It showed them how to build towns and construct temples, how to introduce laws and how to survey the ground. It taught them to sow and to harvest; in general, it taught them everything they required for the daily needs of life. At sunset, the monster dove back into the sea to spend the night. Since that time mankind has not invented anything exceeding the knowledge of OANNES.

"The priests claim that there was a time when the universe consisted of darkness and water and had strange, oddly-shaped creatures in it. There were two-winged people, as well as others with four wings and two faces; a few had only one body, but two heads; or another, with both a man's head and a woman's head, with double genitals. Some people had horns and goat thighs; some had horses' feet, some had human heads with the bodies of horses. Bulls with human heads, lion creatures with human heads, dogs with four bodies and fish tails, horses with dogs' heads; all such creatures existed. In addition, there were fishes, reptiles, snakes and other miraculous beings with interchanged shapes. They are depicted in the sanctuary of the Bel."

Typically, archaeologists dismiss this text as mere myth or fancy. They say that the priests garbed themselves with animal effects to impress the public. For instance, the priests donned fish or lion masks for their ritual dances. Even today in Africa, medicine men practice such rites by wearing animal hides which supposedly transfers the animal's strength and agility to the wearer.

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Perhaps, but it does not necessarily have to be. Both the literature and the art of ancient times depict pampered hermaphrodites which made a living as temple "animals." The Sumerian Grand Kings, and later the Assyrians, hunted "man-animals." In his Egyptian Stories, Herodotus (490-425 BC) discusses strange, black pigeons which were said to be "female man-animals." He claims that the people living in the delta of the Persian Araxes joined with fish and that they were "fish-people" with skin of scales. The Indian Vedas tell about mothers "walking on their hands." The Gilgamesh Epic says that Enkidu "had been estranged by the animals." At the wedding of Peirithoos, Centaurs, half-man, half-horse, violated the wives of the Lapithes. Six young men and six virgins were "offered" to the bull-headed Minotaur.

Plato writes in his Symposium: "Originally, there was a third sex apart from the female and the male. These people had four hands and four feet... their strength was enormous, their mind audacious; they planned to storm heaven to assault the Gods...."

Tacitus (Annals XV,37) reports on an evening orgy in Tigellinus' house, at which "man-animals joined in the courting."

On Sumerian and Assyrian works of art, pictures of hermaphrodites can be found in great variety. The texts discussing these illustrations refer to "captured man-animals", which were tied by Warriors, abducted and delivered to the grand king as a tribute of the country of Musri. Such pictures not only exist in small size, as on Sumerian and Babylonian cylinder seals, but also on temple walls and obelisks, such as on the black obelisk of Salmannassar II, now in the British Museum.

According to today's biological knowledge, it is impossible to cross-breed man and animals, because the number of chromosomes must be the same for both partners. Is that really true?

The latest genetic development would certainly allow for the creation of "animal-men" or "man-animals." The nucleus of any creature can be removed, and through carefully directed, artificial mutation, replaced by genetic material of another organism. Perhaps this complicated process is not even necessary! A short time ago, the love-life of two apes shocked the zoological world. A female Si-amang and a male Gibbon, which have very different numbers of chromosomes and therefore would not be able to propagate, in fact gave birth to a hybrid-ape in the Grant Park Zoo at Atlanta, Georgia. The birth of this hybrid proves what was said to be impossible up to that day.

Cross-breeding of two distantly related animal races not fitting together from the genetic point of view can very well produce a new species in a short period of time. An evolution lasting millions of years, as the Darwinian anthropologists suppose, is not absolutely necessary.

MORE ON THE SHIVALINGA

BY NIRANJAN S. GHATE*

Bhalchandra Patwardhan's article, The Shivalinga, Ancient Skies 6:3, makes for interesting reading, and he has set forth one of the explanations of the Shivalinga form.

I would like to add that Lord Shiva traditionally assumes the important role of the destroyer in the famous trio of Supreme Gods, along with Lord Vishnu, the protector, and Lord Bramha, the creator. The Shivalinga form is usually interpreted as a phallus in the classical literature, which is being in union with Shakti, the Primal Energy.

According to various Puranas, Lord Shiva, the destroyer, creates a tremendous amount of energy with which he destroys the world. As Indian mythology has it, the same Lord Shiva has helped human beings by giving them various deadly weapons to use against their enemies.

If the detailed descriptions of effects of such weapons are compared with the effects of modern atomic weapons, we find a great many similarities between the two. Moreover, another legend says that gods from the skies and Danavas on Earth launched a joint project whereby they extracted wealth from the oceans. For this purpose they used a great mountain as a churner and a large serpent as the rope to wind around the mountain. In the melee that ensued, a great amount of deadly poison was spit by the serpent. Lord Shiva saved the people by swallowing the poison.

It is apparent to me that Lord Shiva knew the secrets of the atom - how to split it, how to fuse it and how to control atomic reactions. Also, he was able to control the deadly poison being produced by the reactor and polluting the world.

If we view the Shivalinga from above and compare its form with an aerial photograph of an atomic reactor, we cannot miss the similarity.

Much research is still needed to draw any positive conclusions, but since the Puranas of the Hindus abound with people who had mastered the secrets of the atom, we can assume that Lord Shiva might have been the greatest authority on atomic energy.

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TO THE EDITOR:

I have noticed an error in the translation of my article "A Technical Interpretation of the Palenque Relief", Ancient Skies 6:3. The last paragraph on page one of the article should read as follows:

"It is supposed that technically the scarcest vacuum can be produced between the walls of the spherical arched, double-walled containers."

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CLOSE-UP VIEW OF HELMETED FIGURE CARVED IN DEEP RELIEF ON STONE STELAE AT EL BAUL, GUATEMALA
Photo by Gene M. Phillips

BOOK REVIEW:

THE REDISCOVERY OF LOST AMERICA

By Arlington H. Mallery and Mary Roberts Harrison

The Rediscovery of Lost America was written by two well educated people with open minds, neither of whom had reached such high pinnacles of learning that they could learn no more.

Captain Arlington Mallery was an engineer, familiar with iron working, navigation and seamanship. Since he was not a professional archaeologist, he had the ability to recognize an ancient smelting furnace and compare his findings with similar works in the Old World.

Mary Roberts Harrison is an expert in cartography, specializing in ancient sea charts and maps. Mallery first published the book in 1951 under the title Lost America, with Harrison as a collaborator. The book was largely ignored by the scientific establishment.

After Mallery's death, Harrison reissued the book, adding some chapters of her own.

Rediscovery gives the locations of many pre-Columbian iron smelting furnaces in America, particularly in Ohio and Virginia. The furnaces were built and operated by prehistoric Celtic and Norse peoples. The exact same types of furnaces have been found in Scandinavia and Ireland.

Over 100,000 copper artifacts have been found in the US and Canada, some such as socketed axes and pentagonal chisels which were cast, not hammered out.

Various inscribed stones, found in the Susquehanna River area, contain 22 letters of a Phoenician alphabet, which is set forth in the book, as well as other letters and symbols found in North America.

Maps and sailing charts, recently deciphered, prove that ancient peoples crossed the Atlantic to America, and in fact, that a lively trade flourished between the continents. This book should put to rest the theory that America was peopled by illiterate savages who crossed a land bridge from Asia.

One chapter in the book is of particular interest to students of the ancient astronaut theory. It is Mallery's own account of his "discovery" of the Piri Re'is Map. In fact, it was Mallery who first suggested that the Map depicted the northern coast of Antarctica, drawn before it was covered with ice. Enough investigation of the Piri Re'is Map has now been made by experts to prove without doubt that it does show the western portion of Africa, the eastern portion of South America and the northern coast of Antarctica, with a land bridge connecting the southern tip of South America with Antarctica. The Piri Re'is Map is so accurate that in comparing it with some modern maps, the later maps have been proved to contain errors.

Harrison has included in an Appendix in the book a letter from Prof. Charles H. Hapgood to her dated June 23, 1978, in which Prof. Hapgood states that "Arlington Mallery's claim to have found the coast of Antarctica on the Piri Re'is Map drawn in 1513, three hundred years before the modern discovery of Antarctica, has been fully confirmed."

Further in his letter, Prof. Hapgood writes: "The most amazing of all the old maps, not excepting the Piri Re'is Map, is a world map drawn by a French geographer, Oronce Fine, in 1531, and called the Oronteus Finaeus Map. In compiling this map, Fine used some ancient source map of Antarctica, now apparently lost. This is a map of the entire continent, showing all or most of the coasts ice-free, and interior features close to the Pole itself. When we solved the grid of this map, which was based on spherical trigonometry, we found we could locate over fifty geographical points to within two degrees of accuracy in latitude or

longitude. The proof of this map of the whole continent serves, of course, as confirmation of Mallery's claim for the Piri Re'is Map. From this it seems clear that his work represents an important turning point in our understanding of the past."

The Rediscovery of Lost America is published in oversize paperback by E. P. Dutton, 2 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016 USA.
O. L. Hope, 425 E. Davidson Avenue, Gastonia, NC 28052 USA.

NEW BOOKS:

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT SEA KINGS, by Prof. Charles H. Hapgood, has been republished by E. P. Dutton, New York, NY 10016 USA.

THE SEARCH FOR LOST AMERICA, by Salvatore M. Trento, published in paperback by Penguin Books, New York.

LOST CITY OF STONE, by Bill S. Ballinger. A new book about the ruins of Nan Madol on the Pacific Island of Ponape. Available from The Sourcebook Project, P.O.Box 107, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057 USA.

DR. VLADIMIR AVINSKY, a Soviet paleontologist and member of the Ancient Astronaut Society, presented his findings at a scientific seminar in Kaluga, USSR, on September 28, 1979, which strongly suggest that extraterrestrial beings visited Earth prehistoric times. The evidence includes winged objects found on 2,000 year-old bone carvings from burial mounds on Siberia's Chukotsk Peninsula. Dr. Avinsky also presented a series of ancient drawings found in the Ural Mountains which include geometric figures which have been interpreted as formulas for certain chemical compounds.

GRAN TOUR MAYA AND JUNGLE RIVER JOURNEY

February 16, 1980 to March 4, 1980

We are pleased to announce the most exciting member expedition yet devised. A rugged adventure into the Mayan regions of northern Guatemala, southern Mexico and the Yucatan will feature several nights of camping out in the jungle wilds, and a breathtaking river journey on the River Pasion and Usumacinta River.

The expedition will depart Chicago for Guatemala City by air on February 16, 1980, then on to Flores, the quaint island town on Lake Peten Itza; proceed overland to the seldom-visited ruins of Yaxha, Naranjo and Nakun. After camping out at the ruins, the group will proceed to Tikal, largest of the Mayan ceremonial centers, then on to Uaxactun, oldest known Mayan site.

At Sayaxche the group will board river boats on the River Pasion and proceed to the Usumacinta River, which serves as the border between Guatemala and Mexico, camping out along the river and visiting sites on the way, including Altar de Sacrificios, Yaxchilan, Bonampak and the Lake Petha area.

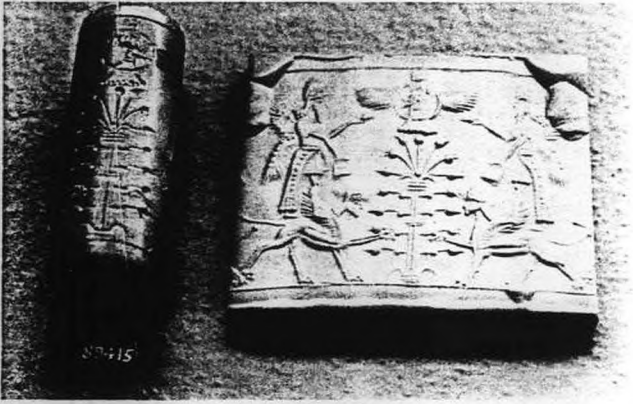
Overland to Palenque, most mysterious of all Mayan ruins, the members will then fly to Merida in northern Yucatan, and on eastward to Chichen-Itza, Coba, Kucikan, Akumal and Tulum. After two days of recuperation on the shores of the Caribbean, the exhausted travellers will return home on March 4, 1980.

The price for this fantastic journey is US\$1487 per person, double occupancy, plus air fare. Participation is limited to twenty persons. If you wish to join this exciting tour, call or write the Society headquarters immediately for full information and a detailed itinerary.

METAL SPHERES MANUFACTURED 2.8 BILLION YEARS AGO?

BY BRENDA J. SULLIVAN*

In the course of my field work, I came across a most unusual artifact - a round metal ball, 4cm in diameter, with three equidistant grooves encircling its equator. The sphere is slightly flattened at each pole. Figure 1 is a photograph of the ball which is now on display in the Klerksdorp Museum in South Africa.



SUMERIAN CYLINDER SEALS DEPICTING "MAN-ANIMALS." About 3,000 BC. Now in the British Museum, London, England. Photos by Erich von Daniken.

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METAL BALL FOUND IN PYROPHYLLITE. Now on display in the Klerksdorp Museum, South Africa. Photo by Brenda Sullivan.

The ball was dug out of a pyrophyllite mine near Ottosdal, in the Western Transvaal. Pyrophyllite, also called "wonderstone", is a mineral used as a filler in paint and powder, for electrical insulation, for chalk and sculpture, and as a component in the manufacture of synthetic diamonds. Found only in the vicinity of Gestoptefontein, near Ottosdal, the mineral is mined by literally being sawn into blocks or slabs. Strangely, hundreds of the metal balls, like the one on display in the museum, have been found imbedded in the pyrophyllite when it is sawn. The mine manager told me that he has found some balls as small as 12 mm (about one-half an inch) in diameter.

The mine manager also told me that the balls are of two types, some are hollow and others are filled with what he describes as "shattered crystal."

It had been reported that Mr. Roelf Marx, the Director of the Klerksdorp Museum, had stated that he had observed that the metal ball revolved on its own axis, about once or twice a year! I talked with Mr. Marx, who confirmed this fact. He told me that the ball turns in an anti-clockwise direction, in a full circle. There is an uncleaned side which still has pieces of pyrophyllite clinging to the surface of the metal, so it is easy to observe that the ball actually rotates. Mr. Marx thought that the turning might have been due to frequent earth tremors in the area, but that would not explain the fact that it always turns in an anti-clockwise direction.

According to the geologists, pyrophyllite was formed between 2.6 and 2.8 Billion years ago! Then how did these metal balls, which are obviously not natural formations, get into the pyrophyllite?

*Mrs. Sullivan is a diamond digger. Her address is P. O. Box 144, Makwassie 2650, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.